

Pest Update (October 24-31, 2012)

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Note: samples containing living tissue may only be accepted from South Dakota. Please do not send samples of dying plants or insects from other states. If you live outside of South Dakota and have a question, instead please send a digital picture of the pest or problem. **Walnut samples may not be sent in from any location – please provide a picture!**

Available on the net at:

<http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx>

Any treatment recommendations, including those identifying specific pesticides, are for the convenience of the reader. Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally those that are most commonly available to the public in South Dakota and the inclusion of a product shall not be taken as an endorsement or the exclusion a criticism regarding effectiveness. Please read and follow all label instructions and the label is the final authority for a product's use on a particular pest or plant. Products requiring a commercial pesticide license are occasionally mentioned if there are limited options available. These products will be identified as such but it is the reader's responsibility to determine if they can legally apply any product identified in this publication.

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Current Concerns

I got a question about growing black walnuts from seed. This seems to be a popular request, either walnut, buckeyes or oaks. Regardless of whether you are collecting nuts or acorns, it is best to fall plant, as the seeds must have a cold treatment before they will germinate. The cold treatment can be accomplished

as well by placing the seeds in a plastic bag with damp sand and storing them where they will be exposed to temperatures below 45°F, an unheated garage will do fine. Plant as soon as the ground can be worked in the spring. Whether fall or spring planting, the general rule for planting tree seeds is to bury the seed to a depth about 3 times its diameter. Do not expect a lot of trees, however, as germination is usually less than 50%.



Oh Deer! I received calls every fall asking what trees and shrubs are “deer proof.” First, deer browsing is easy to recognize by the shoot tips being torn. Rabbits will more cleanly cut the tips and the cuts will often be at a 45° angle. Second, there is no real “deer-proof” plant. If preferred food sources are not available, deer will sometimes eat almost anything, or at least nibble on it. . I am willing to bet if you show this list to anyone in Rapid City

– where there is very heavy deer pressure in town - there are at least several plants listed below that probably someone has had eaten out of their yard by deer. With that said, here is the list of *rarely* eaten plants:

Alnus glutinosa – European alder
Berberis thunbergii – Japanese barberry
Betula nigra – river birch
Betula papyrifera – paper birch
Buxus micophylla – Korean boxwood
Caragana arborescens - Siberian peashrub
Catalpa speciosa – northern catalpa
Cercis canadensis – eastern redbud
Cornus sericea - redosier dogwood
Cotinus coggygria - smoketree
Forsythia ovata - forsythia
Ginkgo biloba - ginkgo
Gledistia triacanthos - honeylocust
Ostrya virginiana – ironwood or also known as hophornbeam
Philadelphus coronaries – sweet mockorange
Picea spp – all spruce
Platanus occidentalis – sycamore
Potentilla fruticosa – all potentilla
Robina pseudoacacia – black locust
Sambucus canadensis - elderberry
Spiraea prunifolia – Bridalwreath spirea
Syringa spp – all lilacs
Viburnum spp – all viburnums

Again, this is not a perfect list. Deer can, and will, rub on almost any plant and some of these plants such as forsythia, lilacs and viburnums are considered “deer proof” but are favorite foods of rabbits! In addition, some of these plants, such as sycamore and redbud, have limited hardiness.

Go Away Deer!

Another approach, or used in combination, is to treat the plant or yard with a repellent. First, the amount of repellent needed is directly proportional to the deer’s preference of the plant being protected. Plants that deer prefer are going to require more repellent than those that are not. Repellents work through a number of mechanisms, most commonly grouped as odor-based and taste-based. Generally speaking, odor-based repellents work better than taste-based (and taste-based don’t work until they take a bite). The most common odor-based products, such as Deer Away and Big Game Repellent, have putrescent whole eggs as their active ingredient. Eggs are considered the most effective deterrent and egg-based products are often used as the standard for comparisons. Taste-based products, such as hot sauce (Miller’s Hot Sauce) are not usually not as effective as repellents but as many people swear by them as at them and a multi-tactic approach to deer, including repellents, may be the most effective means of managing this mammal. As an interesting side note, a recently published study (*HortScience* 40(6); 1810-1814) found that hydrolyzed casein, found in baby formula, with a dilution of Elmer’s Glue-All for a sticker, was an effective homemade repellent for deer!

E-samples



I received this great photograph of aphids on juniper from Bob over in Perkin County. The aphids that occur on junipers at this time of year (*Cindara*) are usually very large (about 1/5”), dark and have long legs. They often feed in colonies, as seen in this picture,

and usually produce a lot of honeydew – a sticky substance that is colonized by sooty mold. The adults for last generation of the year are usually winged and also egg-laying and the eggs are the overwintering stage. Control next spring can be a horticultural oil to smother the aphids or imidacoprid used as a soil drench to kill the aphids as they feed.

Samples received

Davison County FL1200062
turning yellow.

The needles on my arborvitae are

This is normal fall needle drop on arborvitae. These evergreens go through a fall needle drop, as to all evergreens, but with arborvitae the color change appears more like ribbons of discolor foliage, rather than just the interior foliage discoloring.

Tripp County

trunk of this aspen?

What is this scaly looking material on the

This is the walnut scale, (*Quadrispidiotus juglanregiae*) a small sessile insect that sucks the sap from the tree. Despite the name walnut scale, it is more common on maples and aspen. The biology is not well known so control is difficult and since it is an armor scale, rather than a soft scale, control options are limited